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# HUNTING BIRDS

Interesting Experiences of a Mus., vol. i, no. 2, p. 43) in the series Scientist With a Gun.

Wm. Alanson Bryan's story of adventure in search of birds on Molopublished in these columns, is con-

A series of ten carefully selected birds and three nests of the liwi (Vestiaria coccinea Forster) were secured, which in themselves form a valuable set. Taken in connection with the Museum's long series they assume es pecial interest, making it possible in another connection, to discuss intelligently from specimens in hand, some of the interesting problems connected with the evolution and development of the

Next to the Apapane and Amakihi the liwi is the species most commonly met with on Molokai. They generally frequent the ohia forests, but occasionally they will extend their range Pelekuna valleys, so as to reach the seashore. They are strong flyers, often oose flocks they will thus fly from one valley to another. Their flight over the tallest forest trees can be heard and easily distinguished, owing to the whir- late brood is reared. ring noise of their wings, which is supposed to be produced by the peculiar truncated form of the primaries. Other species of the family, as the Himatione, having the same shaped primaries produce a similar though less marked whir-

On June 10, while collecting on Wailan pali, I saw a parent bird in the brilliant plumage of the adult, feeding an immature young (Mus. No. 4626) The young bird was sucking the nectar from the ohia flowers when the parent bird lit beside it. At this the young bird opened its beak to receive the food brought by its parent. The old bird flew away, only to return shortly to repeat the feeding operation. During the time intervening between the atcrop, several green looper worms were

Of the three well identified nests secured, the best specimen was one taken on June 4 from fifteen feet up in a kawau (Byronia) tree, growing on the crest of the ridge well toward the tor of Pun Ohelo mountain. Although it was unoccupied it had every appearance of having been used in rearing a Scarlet feathers from the breast of the parent bird found in the nest left no doubt of its identity, while from the tree the nest was in I shot a very young liwi, that presumably had but recently left the nest near by.

The nest (Mus. No. 4699) is mounted on a horizontal fork, and externally is The bowl is 2.50 inches in diameter by 1.50 deep. Externally the structure is composed of the moss so common on the trees in the higher altitudes. Into this has been worked a few sticks and some fiber from the dead leaves of the Ieie vine. The inner lining is made almost | entirely of the black hair-like fibers of dead moss. Generally speaking it is a very neat and compact structure.

The second nest (Mus. No. 4701) does not differ much from the one just described. In size it is a trifle larger, fork of an ohia tree. The material, especially the moss, is coarser than in the nest described.

The third nest (Mus. No. 4700) was not quite completed when collected on May 25 from the thick forests at Halawa. Like the last, it was placed in an ohia ten feet or more from the ground. Wanting the lining, as it does, it might be mistaken as the completed nest of some other species, as the Ieie fibers used in its construction make a very creditable lining. But a close examination of the size, shape and material used, so far as completed, shows it to be substantially the same as the first described. However, the moss is of a different species and a more liberal use is made of small twigs in the foundation, while as just said, Ieie leaf fiber enters extensively into the secondary lining. Only a few of the blackish moss stem fibers mentioned above, have been put in place, while two or three small wisps of pulu fiber have been woven into the brim. The eggs of the liwi are as yet undescribed.

#### Palmeria dolei (Wilson).

I was unfortunate in not securing his species, though five individuals vere seen in one flock at one time, and hree at another, flying out over the pali at the head of Pelekunu valley. Munro, who immediately preceded me in the same woods, did not see the species at all during his month's work about Punalu Mountain. We therefore feel assured that though the bird is still to be had on Molokai, it is by no means as abundant as one might conclude from reading Mr. Perkins' account, published some years ago, where he records that he "assembled a flock of no less than nine adult birds at the same time in one small ohia

#### Himatione sanguinea (Gmel.).

The Apapane is the most abundant pecies on Molokai. A short series was taken for comparison with the Mueum's material, which has been colected at the same season on the other slands of the group. The song and general habits have already been fully recorded elsewhere. However, certain observations concerning the mating performance seem to be new. During the early part of our stay the Apapane were in the height of the mating season The song of both sexes was frequent and varied. Quarrels between the contesting males were of common occur-

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of notes was repeatedly witnessed. In addition to the fluttering dance there described, on one occasion I saw it carried to the extent of the male bird affectionately caressing its mate with the beak. The whole performance last-

ed several minutes. The high palis of the island furnished I an excellent opportunity to observe the kai, parts of which have already been Apapane in sustained flight. Flocks of seven or eight or ten will, not infrequently, fly from the forests at the edge of these precipices, thousands of feet above the valley below, and with little concern, steer a course that will take them in a direct line as far as the eve can follow them. At nightfall they are to be seen returning from their feeding grounds lower down on the mountains or in the valleys flying swiftly and directly in the higher altitudes to roost. This daily migration over open land or from place to place is a very strongly marked characteristic of this

A number of nests-but unfortunate. ly no eggs-were secured. I am convinced that the nesting season can not be well defined. In substantiation of this opinion, I find that in the series of skins collected, two are immadown, in certain seasons and under ture, while perhaps five times that favorable conditions, as in Wailau and number of brownish-colored young were noted among the hundreds of adults seen at close range. This fact, mounting high in the air. In small coupled with the mating performances and the enlarged testes and ovaries examined, would indicate that on this island, at least, an occasional

The series of eight nests do not vary in material or location from those elsewhere described, to a degree sufficient to warrant their redescription. However, a deserted nest (Mus. No. 4683) taken from twenty feet up in a moss-covered ohla tree which was growing in the heart of the Puualu forest, is somewhat extraordinary in that it has returned to the original elements of which it was composed in situ, leaving a replica of itself in living green moss. The structure is of some years standing evidently. Old enough, at least, so that the moss and sticks of which it was composed have had time to almost completely disintegrate. That portion which remains tentions of the parent, both old and has, in the meantime, become comyoung birds flew about and fed to pletely covered with living moss, so gether. On examining the young bird's that the shape and general appearance of the nest is retained with just enough of the old structure remaining

Chlorodrepanis kalaana (Wilson). Without here entering into a discusthat have been used to separate this species from the very closely allied forms from Maui, Kauai and Oahu, it will be sufficient to say that the series of seventeen birds secured on Molokal confirm rather than disprove the conclusions formerly arrived atnamely: that kalaana has been separated as a species on characters that are of doubtful subspecific value. Was it not for the definite geographical 4.50 inches across by 2.75 inches deep, factor which enters in for consideration, the form would hardly have impressed the original describer as being worthy of designation as a sub-

> The Amakihi is the second species in abundance on the island, and was met with throughout the forested district generally, often coming well down to the coast-line on the weather side of the island, where conditions are favorable. The species is sociable by nature, usually feeding in small companies, or, at least, never singly. Their call note is a fine, clearly-whiswhen for any reason an individual becomes detached from the flock mate. The call note, as with most all the mountain birds, is given more frequently during foggy, cloudy weather, In such abundant, they become lished in their habits, often feeding occasions is usually frequent and identical, I believe, for both sexes. It

Though generally favoring woods of the character described, they are to have found them-usually in isolated pairs, it is true-in the darkest and the limbs and leaves of the trees high and barren ridges. into the edge of the forests in some shia both in and out of flower. Lobelias, especially the Howers, were seldom visited. But the white bloom, as well as the leaves, of the Scaevola. were always carefully inspected by

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Arrive Honolulu from Kahuku, Wai-alua and Waisnae-\*8:36 a. m., 5:38 Arrive Honolulu from Ewa Mill and Pearl City—†7:46 a. m., \*8:36 a. m., \*10:38 a. m., \*1:40 p. m., \*4:31 p. m., 5:31 p. m., \*7:30 p. m.

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Returning: Leave Kahuku for Laie, Hauula, Punaluu, Kahana and Way Stations at ..... 1:45 P.M. Arrive Kahana at..... 3:45 P.M.

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